

SENATE, No. 3724

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 13, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator PAUL A. SARLO

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Diegnan and Singer

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award summer tuition aid grants.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning student financial assistance, amending
2 N.J.S.18A:71B-20, and supplementing chapter 71B of Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. N.J.S.18A:71B-20 is amended to read as follows:

9 18A:71B-20. a. A State tuition aid grant shall be awarded
10 annually to each eligible, qualified full-time undergraduate student
11 enrolled in a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate in an
12 eligible institution, or in an institution of higher education in
13 another state, provided that state permits its residents to utilize its
14 state student financial assistance grants in New Jersey institutions
15 of higher education through reciprocity agreements approved by the
16 authority. In no event shall a State tuition aid grant be utilized at an
17 out-of-State institution which is not licensed by that state and
18 accredited by a regional accrediting association recognized by a
19 national accrediting organization.

20 b. To each New Jersey resident enrolled as a full-time student,
21 except as otherwise provided in subsection d. of this section, and
22 meeting the other requirements for eligibility under this chapter, the
23 State shall grant an amount as provided in N.J.S.18A:71B-21. A
24 student shall not be eligible for a grant unless the application is in a
25 form satisfactory to the authority. A student shall not be eligible for
26 grants for more than four and one-half academic years, unless the
27 recipient is enrolled in an undergraduate program regularly
28 requiring five academic years for completion, in which case the
29 authority shall permit five and one-half years of eligibility.
30 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, a student receiving aid
31 under the provisions of P.L.1968, c.142 (C.18A:71-28 et seq.) shall
32 be entitled to a sixth year of eligibility. Notwithstanding the
33 foregoing provisions, a county college student who transfers to a
34 four- year institution, or any student who is required to pursue 18 or
35 more credit hours in a remedial or developmental curriculum, as
36 defined by regulations adopted by the authority, is entitled to an
37 additional half year of eligibility. For the purpose of this article, a
38 remedial curriculum shall include only noncredit courses in which a
39 student is directed to enroll by the institution. Eligibility for tuition
40 aid grants may be extended to part-time students through
41 regulations developed by the authority if funds are separately
42 appropriated for this purpose. A student shall not be eligible for
43 grants unless the student maintains such minimum standards of
44 academic performance as are required by the institution of
45 enrollment. A student who is enrolled in a course leading to a

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 degree in theology or divinity shall not be eligible for a tuition aid
2 grant.

3 c. A person shall not be awarded a State tuition aid grant unless
4 that person:

5 (1) satisfies the residency and other requirements provided in
6 article 1 of this part;

7 (2) has applied for State tuition aid and has been determined by
8 the authority to be eligible for the tuition aid;

9 (3) has demonstrated financial need for the tuition aid as
10 determined by and in accordance with standards to be established
11 by the authority; and

12 (4) maintains satisfactory academic progress in accordance with
13 standards established by the authority.

14 d. Eligibility criteria for summer tuition aid grants awarded
15 pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
16 Legislature as this bill) shall conform to the requirements of this
17 section and shall include the following additional eligibility criteria:

18 (1) the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the
19 summer term;

20 (2) the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be
21 applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same
22 institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall and
23 spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and

24 (3) the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be
25 applied may be credited toward the student's graduation or
26 academic major requirements.

27 (cf: N.J.S.18A:71B-20)

28

29 2. (New section) a. The authority shall award summer tuition
30 aid grants for eligible students pursuant to N.J.S.18A:71B-20. A
31 summer tuition aid grant shall be applied toward the tuition costs
32 outside of the academic year, as defined in N.J.S.18A:71B-4. The
33 receipt of a summer tuition aid grant shall not: (1) reduce the
34 amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the
35 academic year; (2) be included when determining the student's
36 maximum tuition aid grant awards pursuant to subsection b. of this
37 section; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for
38 an award under this chapter.

39 b. A summer tuition aid grant shall be prorated against the full-
40 time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester as follows:
41 an eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits shall receive
42 one-half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student
43 enrolled with nine to 11 credits shall receive three-quarters of a full-
44 time award.

45 c. A student shall not be eligible for more than four summer
46 tuition aid grants.

47 d. (1) Summer tuition aid grants awarded pursuant to this
48 section shall be funded by a separate line item.

(2) The amount of funds appropriated for full-time tuition aid grants shall not be reduced or diverted to implement the provisions of this act.

(3) The amount of funds appropriated for part-time tuition aid grants shall not be reduced or diverted to implement the provisions of this act.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

Providing financial aid to students taking summer classes helps accelerate completion of college degrees. By enabling students to complete a degree sooner, this aid can lower the total cost of attendance and reduce student loan debt. Students are eligible for federal financial aid during summer terms through the Year-Round Pell grant program. This bill authorizes the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award State-funded summer tuition aid grants for eligible students, following the federal Year-Round Pell grant program model. The bill provides that a student's receipt of a summer tuition aid grant will not: (1) reduce the amount of a tuition aid grant awarded to the student during the academic year; (2) be included when determining the student's maximum tuition aid grant awards; or (3) otherwise adversely affect the student's eligibility for other State student financial awards.

The bill provides that the eligibility criteria for summer tuition aid grants are required to conform to the eligibility requirements for tuition aid grants provided for study during the academic year, and will also require that:

- the student is enrolled in six or more credit hours in the summer term;
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied are in the same undergraduate program at the same institution in which the student was enrolled during the fall and spring semesters of the preceding academic year; and
- the courses for which the summer tuition aid grant is to be applied may be credited towards the student's graduation or academic major requirements.

The bill further provides that a summer tuition aid grant will be prorated against the full-time tuition aid grant awarded in the preceding semester as follows: an eligible student enrolled with six to eight credits will receive one-half of the value of a full-time award, and an eligible student enrolled with nine to 11 credits will receive three-quarters of a full-time award.

Finally, the bill provides that:

- a student will not be eligible for more than four summer tuition aid grants;

S3724 RUIZ, SARLO

5

- 1 • summer tuition aid grants awarded pursuant to the bill will
- 2 be funded by a separate line item;
- 3 • the amount of funds appropriated for full-time tuition aid
- 4 grants will not be reduced or diverted to implement the
- 5 bill's provisions; and
- 6 • the amount of funds appropriated for part-time tuition aid
- 7 grants will not be reduced or diverted to implement the
- 8 bill's provisions.